

AN HUMBLE
REMONSTRANCE

FROM
His Excellency THOMAS FAIRFAX
AND
The Army under his Command con-
cerning the present State of Affairs in relation to
themselves and the Kingdoms, with their desires
and present Resolutions thereupon

Presented to the Commissioners at St.
Albans, June 23. to be by them humbly pre-
sented to the PARLIAMENT.

By the appointment of his Excell. Sir
Thomas Fairfax and the Council of War.

Signed

John Rushworth Secr.

1649

Printed for George Whittaker at the Sign of the Gun in St. Dunstons Church-yard
And sold by the Booksellers in London

AN HUMBLE
REMONSTRANCE

FROM
HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS FAIRFAX

AND
The Gentlemen his Commanders
concerning the establishment of a House in relation to
the Liberties of the Colonies, and the duties
of the Colonies to the Mother Country.

Submitted to the consideration of the
Honourable House as to be by them freely
considered and answered.

By the appointment of his Excellency
Thomas Fairfax and the Council of War.

Wm. R. Rind, Printer.

AN HUMBLE
REMONSTRANCE
FROM

His Excel. Sir Thomas Fairfax and
The Army under His Command: concern-
ing the present estate of Affaires in relation
to themselves and the Kingdom, with their Desires
and present Resolutions thereupon



LI R. Desires as Souldiers in behalfe of ourselves
and other Souldiers that have faithfully served
the Parliament in this Kingdom, as also our re-
maining dissatisfactions in relation therunto
may be clearly collected out of our severall
Papers that have formerly beene presented to
the Parliament, concerning the same, to which
particulars we have not yet received any further satisfaction.

In our last Representation it may appeare what our Desires
are, as Members of the Common wealth in behalfe of our selves
and all others for the clearing, settling and securing of the Rights
Liberties, and Peace of the Kingdom: for the Justice, Rea-
sonableness, Necessity and Common convenience whereof
unto all we dare appeale to the whole Kingdom, and to the
World: yet we have hitherto received no answer therunto,
nor can we heare of any consideration taken thereupon, so that
the things contained therein into any way of resolution or
dispatch.

3. Wee have since, in pursuance of the first and second head of our desires in the said representation, delivered in a charge against divers persons Members of the House of Commons, for divers designs and practices to the abuse and Dishonour of the *Parliament*, the unsufferable injury of the *Army*, the infringement of the Rights and Liberties both of Souldiers and Subjects, the breach or hazard of the Peace of this Kingdome, and the hinderance of the reliefe of *Ireland* &c.

4. Upon which though the maine things charged, with the mischievous effects and further dangerous consequences of them, as also the constant and continued activity of all, or most of the persons charged in relation to those things, for the most part are sufficiently knowne, especially to the Parliament it selfe, yet wee finde neither any thing done yett wherin so knowne, nor any way resolved on or admitted by the Parliament for the examination or discovery of what may be els knowne: But rather (as if neither the things charged, nor the present sad effects nor future ill consequences thereof were at all considerable) the whole business seeme to be slightly past over or set aside.

Lastly we did with these deliver in another paper (whereof here is a Coppy annexed) concerning divers just and necessary things which wee did desire might be provided for, and done for the better proceeding in the Premises with more safety to our selves and the Kingdome, and with more assurance or hopes of a timely and happy Issue.

To which things desired (which wee suppose all men reasonable will thinke just and necessary) wee have yet received no answer or resolution, nor can finde any consideration at all had of them, save that a months pay is sent downe to the *Army*, whilst those that have deserted the *Army*, receive at *London* much more; and that some Votes have bin passed for the annulling the Committee pretended for safety about sitting of men and drawing of Forces together, whilst Votes wee since rendered but vaine and delusive, by the continuance and further practices of those whom wee have charged and their accomplices in sitting and engaging men for a new Warre, and by a later dayes Votes not admitting that the Forces so hired or engaged should by publicke Order be dismissed or discharged: which with other things wee cannot but attribute chiefly

chiefly to the prevalent influence of the same persons.

Now whereas we finde that our first desire in the Paper last mentioned (for present suspending the persons Impeached from sitting in the House) is judged by some to be against the comf & Priviledge of *Parliament*, or of ill consequence in the president of it, (the charge being but generall and no particular proofes as yet produced to render the proceedings Legal) we cannot but remind the *Parliament*.

First, That as the most and maine things charged (with the sad effects and consequences of them) so the constant and continued activity, of all or most of the persons charged in relation therunto, (in misinforming, deluding, abusing or surprising the House, and otherwise, are sufficiently knowne to the *Parliament* it selfe,) so as the House might upon their owne past and present cognizance of the same, most justly proceed to suspend them,) as (in many other cases upon farre lesse occasions, which never could have produced such sad effects to the Kingdome,) they have done many other of their members merely for words spoken of things moved in the House, alledged to be but against Order or Customs of the House, and this without any tryall, proofe or charge, but merely upon the Houses owne cognizance of the things, as we could instance in many cases since this *Parliament* began.

Secondly, Whereas many of the things to which the Charge relates, are things spoken, moved or done in the House, so as yet we have no cleare way opened particularly to charge or mention them, or to produce proofes to them, without some pretence against us of breach of priviledge, and therefore (though we thinke no priviledge ought to protect evil men in doing wrong to particulars, or mischiefe to the Publique yet,) we have beene hitherto so tender of *Parliament* Priviledge, as that we have onely remonstrated the evill of such things done, and supposing the House to have bene (as we did, and doe believe, and if way were open, without breach of Priviledge, should not doubt to prove it was) some wayes misinformed, deluded, surprized, or otherwise abused in these things by evil members, we have frequently in former papers, (before the Charge) put the *Parliament* upon it, (who without colour of breach of Priviledge

might doe it,) to find out and discover who they were that had so abused them, and to disingage the Honour of Parliament from the evil practises and designs of such Incendiaries.

Now since the same difficulties or prejudices lye yet in our way, (as to the particular charging or proove of such things against members.) And the Parliament (though so often put upon it in our former papers, yet through the powerfull interest of the persons guilty,) hath not taken any cognizance what members or others have so abused them, to draw the Parliament to such dishonour and inconveniencies, we cannot but againe more fully and clearly assert (as we have in former papers, and shall more particularly if needs be, remonstrate) that divers things lately done and passed from the Parliament against this Army, (as particularly the Order for suppressing the Petition, that high Declaration against it, and against all that should proceede in it, putting the faithfull servants of the Parliament and Kingdome out of the protection of the Law, and exposing them as enemies to the State, etc. to the forfeiture of Estates, Liberties, Life and all, but for going about in an humble, peaceable and inoffensive way, to desire what was undeniably, their due and dearly earned, and many other such like proceedings both against the Army, and others,) doe carry with them such a face of injustice, oppression, arbitrarinesse and tyranny, as (we thinke) is not to be paraleld in any former proceedings of the most Arbitrary Courts against any private men, but have brought insufferable dishonour upon the Parliament, (which we are, and others ought to be deeply sensible of,) hath tended to disoblidge all men, especially Souldiers from the same, to destroy all just freedome either of Souldiers or Subjects, and hath conduced to all other the sad effects and worse consequences, expressed in the Charge, and gives us and others cause to conclude that those Worthies, who have formerly acted and carried on things in Parliament for Publique-Good, Right and Freedome, are now awed or over-borne by a prevailling party of men of other private interests crept in, and that neither we, nor any other can reasonably expect right freedome or safety (as private men or) to have things acted in Parliament for publicke good while the same persons continue there in the same power to abuse the name

and authority of Parliament, to serve and prosecute their private interests and passions and (vnder the priviledges of Parliament) to shelter themselves under the worst of evils or mischiefs they can doe, though to the Ruine of the Kingdome. Wee are in this case forc'd (to our great grieve of heart) thus plainly to assest the present evil and mischiefe, together with the future worlde consequences of the things lately done even in the Parliament it selfe, (which are too evident and visible to all.) And so (in their proper colours) to lay the same at the Parliaments doores, untill the Parliament shall be pleased either of themselves to take notice and ridde the Houses of those who have any way misinformed, deluded, surprized, or otherwise abused the Parliament to the passing such foule things there, or shall open to us and others some way how we may (regularly and without the scandall of breaking Priviledges come to charge and prosecute those particular persons, that (In truth) have so abused the Parliament, (as well as our selves) even for those misinformations, and other evil and indirect practises or proceedings in Parliaments whereby they have so abused the same (as in our said Charge and former papers is set forth.)

And here (if wee may) we should humbly offer to consideration whether it were not a necessary expedient, for prevention or remedy of such evils in future, that in things so clearly destructive to the common Rights and Liberties of the people, and the safety of the Kingdome, there should be a libertie for dissenting members in the house of Commons (as it is allowed in the house of Peeres) to enter their dissent, and thereby to acquit themselves from the guilt or blame of what evil may ensue, that so the Kingdome may regularly come to know who they are that performe their trust faithfully, and who not. And this provision for the future, (as also our desires for remedy in the present cases) as it were clearly good and necessary in the respects premised, so (wee thinke) the same may well be without future prejudice or discouragement in any other respects to succeeding Members of Parliament. Providing alwaies that no man shall be questioned or censured for any thing said or done in Parliament any further then to exclusion from that trust, which is all that in the present case wee should desire upon any such grounds. And that future liberty of entering

*libertie for
dissenting
members
in the house
of Commons
is
allowed*

entering dissent wee doe not here propose as a thing wee any way
insist on to the prejudice of *Parliament* privileges; wee onely offer
it to consideration; and that from good wishes to the Priviledges
of *Parliament*, to render them more lasting by being less nocent.
And indeed whoever most adores or tenders those Priviledges, will
best expresse his zeale towards them in taking care they be not a-
bused or extended to private wrong or publicke mischief. (For
wee clearly finde & all wise men may see) that *Parliament* Privi-
ledges, as well as Royall-Privilege, may be perverted and abused
to the destruction of those greater ends for whose protection and
preservation they were admitted or intended (*viz.* the Rights and
Liberties of the people and safety of the whole) and in case they
be so, the abuse, evill, or danger of them is no lesse to be conten-
ded against, and a remedy thereof no lesse to be endeavoured, then
of the other.

And, whereas the injustice (In that particular of the *Deduction*
against the *Army* for their just and innocent Petition) may seeme
to have bin recompensed in the late expunging thereof out of the
Journall bookes. Wee confesse it had bin so in great measure; as
to the particular or present injury done to the *Army* therein; & we
cannot but acknowledge therefore the Justice that lyes in those
Votes for expunging thereof, and for our owne or the *Army*'s par-
ticular reparation, wee should neither wish more, nor scarce have
insisted on so much to any dishonor of *Parliament* in future, & we
should rather have been satisfied with the *Parliament*'s declaring
how, and by whom they have bin misinformed, surpris'd; or o-
therwise abused in the framing, proposall or passing thereof as it
was, but as to that particular, or any other of that nature, we say
as followeth.

1. We never did nor doe value or regard our own injury or re-
paration in any comparison to the consequence of the one, to the
prejudice of the other, or to the future security of common right
& freedome in this Nation. And accordingly we do not account
any reparation considerable that extends but to our selves in the
present case, and does not in some sort secure our selves, and all
others from danger of the same or worse injuries or oppressions,
(as private men from the wills and passions of the same per-
sons that have offered and acted such things against us while
an *Army*.

Secondly

We cannot but imagine and consider (according to generall reason) how the expunging of that Declaration was carried and obtained and upon what grounds and intentions it was given way to, and how that procured it been all for expunging it (and that freely) yet how can we expect better but that the same men who at one time carried such a Declaration, and another time expunged it, may the next day obtaine the like or worle (upon any occasion wherein it may serve their private ends or interests if they continue in the same power and sway and be let pass in deluding and surprizing the Parliament as they have done in the past particulars.

3. The apparent dishonour and prejudice brought upon the Parliament, in having such a Declaration so passed as they should have after (without any alteration) in the pretended ground of it find fault (for shame of the world) to expunge, (we think) should engage those Members that love Parliaments, in point of honour, to find out and discover, how, and by whom the Parliament had been abused or therwise brought into such an inconveniency. And the Parliament may in this see the temper (as by-standers do the prevalence) of those Members that abused the Parliament in that Declaration, who will and can make the Authority of Parliament still lye under the dishonour of it (in a bare expunging or retracting) rather then to admit any consideration to acquit the authority of Parliament that would tend to fix the blame on those particular Members that had deserted it. And this certainly will be admitted and done rather then to slight it over in a bare expunging were not some men more tender of, and more swayed with such considerations and consequences as may tend to the prejudice of persons, then such as tend to the generall prejudice and dishonour of Parliaments.

As to these particulars included in our charge which depend on things done without the Parliament we are ready and should most willingly proceed in the particular charging, and proving thereof if (first from the Justice of the House in a present proceeding against the persons charged for those things that are already knowne to the House being done in it) we could find encouragement to expect any good issue upon those other things, and did we not (on the contrary) find that notwithstanding what is knowne to the House as before expressed the same persons continue in such power & prevalence both in the House and in all Committees of the highest trust as leaves little hope of right or satisfaction to the Army or Kingdome in other things and much

lose in any just proceeding against themselves while they continue Judges of their owne and our concernment, so as we cannot while they remaine in the same power expect any other but a continued perverting and making advantage of all things (and especially of those delays which a regular proceeding against them would necessarily induce) altogether to our owne and the Kingdome prejudice and danger disable or weaken us for those things which the safety and settling of the Rights, Liberties, and Peace of the Kingdome requires: And to strengthen themselves by understand practices and preparations both at home and abroad the better to oppose us and engage the Kingdome in a new War, thereby to accomplish their designs, or at least to save themselves from Justice in a common confusion: We say were it not for these and such other considerations, that leave little hopes of Justice to our selves or the Kingdome (while they continue in the same power) and render all delays dangerous and destructive to our selves and peace of the Kingdome, we should be contented that the business concerning the Members we have charged should be laid aside till those other things were first settled, which our Declaration does propound for the common rights and liberties of the Kingdome.

But finding things still so carried as they are & as we have before expressed & that while they are Judges in their own causes they (with that party which they make) will doe what they please, and render it a breach of privilege to be called for it, wee cannot but upon all the considerations and for all the reasons before exprest in it upon it that the members charged may first be forthwith suspended from sitting in the House: otherwise we cannot expect any true proceedings against them upon a more particular charge nor think there is any good intended to our selves or the Kingdome.

As to our desire of having the Army presently paid up equally with those that have deserted it we appeale to all men for the Justice, reasonableness, and necessity thereof.

The Justice in that the former service (for which these arrears are due) hath bene (at least) as faithfully and diligently performed by the Army as by those late deserters of it and in our present posture (though they have appeared indeed more officious and servicable to the interest and will of particular men than we, yet we are sure) the Army is and (we hope) will at last appeare to be more faithfull to the true interest of Parliament, and the Kingdome (which wee were at first called out and engaged for) then they in deserting the Army have hitherto appeared.

For

(11)

For the reasonableness of our desires though we have ground to claim more then they, or rather that they or some of them should forfeit their Arrears, yet we aske (for present) but equall nor should wee (at present) insist much on that (as to Officers) if our Souldiers were but first paid up. Our necessity to insist on that, is obvious to every man, and therefore (unless we should betray our owne and the Kingdomes cause) we cannot but positively insist upon it, that the Army should forthwith be paid up (at the least) equally to those desertors of it which, if denied or delayed, we shall be thereby enforced upon present wayes of instant remedy and right to the Army therein.

And whereas the Parliament hath lately ordered and publicly declared that all that shall desert the Army shall have present satisfaction in their Arrears (the Officers three months pay, the Souldiers all their Arrears deducting for free quarter) which still continues unrecalled, we cannot but look upon it as a most cleare evidence of the continuing malice and prevalence of ours and the Kingdomes Enemies. And we must and do insist upon it, that that order or Declaration may forthwith be publicly recalled, otherwise we cannot believe that any thing but ruine and destruction is designed to our selves and all others in the Kingdome, who every where call upon us, not to disband till we see the Rights, Liberties, and peace of the Kingdome settled according to the many Declarations by which we were first called forth, and invited to engage in the late War.

Next we cannot but take notice that (instead of granting or Answering our desires in the last paper) in order to the better and more safe proceeding to a composure and settlement of all things for the good and peace of the Kingdome, and for prevention of a new War the Army being first commanded to forty miles distance from London, his Majesties Person is demanded immediately to Richmond house within eight miles of London which (as we cannot but impute it) to the prevailing interest of the same enemies to our, and the Kingdomes peace, so all men may easily discern (with us) how directly it tends (in pursuance of their former private designe) upon the King etc he came from Holdenby to put his Majesty within the reach of those mens power who have under hand Listed about London already very considerable numbers both of horse and foot, and are daily lifting and engaging more both there and in many parts of the Kingdome to serve their designs: And therefore we appeale to all uningaged men whe-

then we can in this give way to have the King put so far within those mens power without giving them the so long sought for advantage of his Majesties Person, whereby to embroyle the Kingdome in a new and bloody War, and to strengthen themselves in their mischievous designs, the better to uphold and establish their faction and intended domination, so that in this case we cannot but importune the Parliament (as they tender the peace and safety of the Kingdome and the avoyding of Jealousies or worse inconveniency in the Army) that they would resume the consideration of that business concerning the Person of the King, and not propose any place for him nearer to London then they would have the Quarters of the Army to be.

And whereas (by the procurement of the same persons, or others of their party) there hath been scandalous informations presented to the Houses, and industriously published in Print, importing, as if his Majesty were kept as a prisoner amongst us, and barbarously and un-
 lawfully used, we cannot but declare that the same and all other suggestions of that sort, are most false and scandalous, and absolutely contrary, not onely to our declared desires, but also to our principles, which are most clearly for a generall right and just freedome to all men. And therefore upon this occasion we cannot but declare particularly, that we desire the same for the King, and others of his party (so farre as can consist with common right or freedome) and with the security of the same for future) and we doe further clearly profess, we doe not see how there can be any peace to this Kingdome, firme or lasting without a due consideration of, and provision for the Rights, Quiet, and Immunity of his Majesties Royall Family, and his late partakers, and herein we think that tender and equitable dealing (as supposing their cases had been ours) and a spirit of common love and justice, diffusing it self, to the good and preservation of all, will make up the most glorious conquests over their hearts, (if God in mercy see it good) to make them, and the whole people of the Land, lasting friends.

Now to draw to a conclusion: since we can yet obtaine no satisfaction or answer to the things desired as before, but contrariwise finde all things carried on by the prevailing interest of those our enemies, to the prejudice and danger of our selves and the Kingdome, since (notwithstanding some Votes of Parliament, against the late Orders of the Committee of Safety, for lifting of Forces, and notwithstanding

standing the earnest desires and endeavours of the City, concurrent with
 upwards to have the same prevented or remedied, yet the said Com-
 mittee of Safety being continued still in the same power, we find that
 by the appointment of assistance and under the protection or coun-
 tenance of the same persons whom we have charged, and their ac-
 complices, there are still manifold practices under-hand, to lift and
 raise new Forces, and (notwithstanding the discovery thereof to
 the Parliament from the City, yet) the same persons have prevailed so
 far in the House, as not to admit the Question for discharging of
 them, but the same practices still continue, and with double diligence
 are enforced since also divers forces (pretended to have engaged for
 Ireland) are by the same persons ordered to Rendezvous about Wor-
 cester, there to lay the foundation of a new Army. And to that pur-
 pose their Emillaries and correspondents in all Counties, are busy
 and active to raise forces for them. And though for these things the
 actors of them have no present publique authority, yet they have some
 way such countenance or assistance to be justified in Parliament, (if
 questioned for it) as that they have the confidence to act openly, since
 they have likewise their Emillaries or agents abroad in *Switzerland*,
France, and other Countries, very active to draw in Foraine Forces
 for their assistance: since in the mean time, they are endeavouring by
 Spies, and secret agents in all our Quarters, to inveigle and invite the
 Souldiers of this Army to desert their Officers and come to London,
 And for that purpose doe improve the advantage of the Order or De-
 claration of Parliament afore mentioned, for satisfaction of Arrears
 to such as shall desert the Army: And we finde they have the publick
 porse so much at their disposal, as to make good that, and other their
 undertakings of that nature, and yet such as have so deserted the
 Army and received their Arrears, are not discharged or dispersed, but
 continued together in bodies, and under Command, in or near the
 City, (as in particular some of Sir Robert Py's men, Coll. *Greaves*
 his Cap. *Fleming*, and others. *Bill Quartered upon Kent*) Since like-
 wise they have their Agents, and Correspondents, labouring with the
 King to make contracts with him to draw his Majesty to engage, and
 declare for them, or at least to declare himself a prisoner amongst us,
 whereby to stirre up and engage his party against us, since in all these
 respects we finde all delatory wayes (which they industriously de-
 vise) to be designed and made use of onely to our disadvantage, weak-

King, and Prince, and the Kingdomes, and as their own advantage, and strengthening in their Religion, the better to prepare for a new warre.

And lastly, considering the multitudes of Reformadors and other Souldiers, swarming about the City (whom the persons we have charged and their accomplices have at their heels, to bring up to Massacre when they please) and that by their frequent tumultuous confluences thither (beletting, and sometimes blocking up the Parliament dores threatening, and offering violence to the persons of the most faithful Parliament men) the just freedom of Parliament seems to be taken away or at least for the present abrogated in so much that those Members who have served the Kingdome hitherto with most faithfullnesse, diligence and integrity for the publike good, many of them dare scarce come to the House; or (if they doe) they come in feare and perill of their lives, and when they are there, are awed, discharged, or disabled from discharging their consciences, or doing their duties to the Kingdome.

Upon all these considerations, we are clearly convine'd and satisfied, that both our duties and trust for the Parliament and Kingdome, calls upon us, and warrants us, and an imminent necessity (for our own and the Kingdomes safety, and prevention of a new warre) enforces us to make or admit of no longer delays, but upon these foundations God hath given us with vigour and speed, to endeavour in some extraordinary way, the vindicating of Parliament freedom from tumultuous violence, the breaking of these designs, and preparations that otherwise threaten a present imbroilement of the Kingdome in more blood and war, and a future perpetuall enslaving of it under faction and Tyranny. And so (if God see it good) to put the Parliament into a freedom and capacity (with his Majesties wished and hoped concurrence) to settle the right liberties, and peace of the Kingdome.

Upon all these grounds, and for all these ends premised, we shall be intorced to take such courses extraordinary, as God shall enable and direct us unto, to put things to a speedy issue, unless by Thursday night next we receive assurance and security to our selves and the Kingdome, for a more safe and hopefull proceeding in an ordinary way, by
having

having those things granted, which in order thereunto we have before insisted on. And shall here for more brevity and clearnesse, repeat as followeth.

1 That the declaration, inviting men to desert the Army, and promising their Arrears in case they doe so, may be recalled and annulled.

2 That the Army may bee presently payed up equally to those that have deserted it.

3 That his Majestys coming to Richmond may bee suspended untill affaires be better settled and composed. And in the meane time no place may bee appointed that may be any nearer to London than the Parliament will allow the Quarters of the Army to bee.

4 That the Members charged may bee forthwith suspended or sequestred the House.

5 That those that have deserted the Army, may bee instantly discharged and dispersed and receive no more of their Arrears till the Army be first satisfied.

6 That both Parliament and City may be speedily and effectually freed from those multitudes of Reformados and Souldiers before mentioned that flock together about London by a speedy dispatch and discharging of them from the City.

7 That all such liuing or paying of new forces or drawing together of any before mentioned and all preparations towards a new warre may be effectually declared against and suppressed as also all innovations or inventions to draw in forraigne forces.

8 That the present perplexed affaires of the Kingdome and those concerning the Army as also all the things desired in our late representation in behalfe of the Kingdome may be put into some speedy way of settlement, and compasare.

II.

St. Albans,
Febr 23. 1647.

By the appointment of his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax, and the Councell of Warre.

John Rushworth, Secretary.

FINIS

[illegible]

Council of State,
Jenny St. Louis, and the
By the appointment of his Excel-

17. 2011. 12. 12.
18. 2011. 12. 12.

John R. Johnson

FLYING

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